



House Rabbit Network

P.O. Box 2602

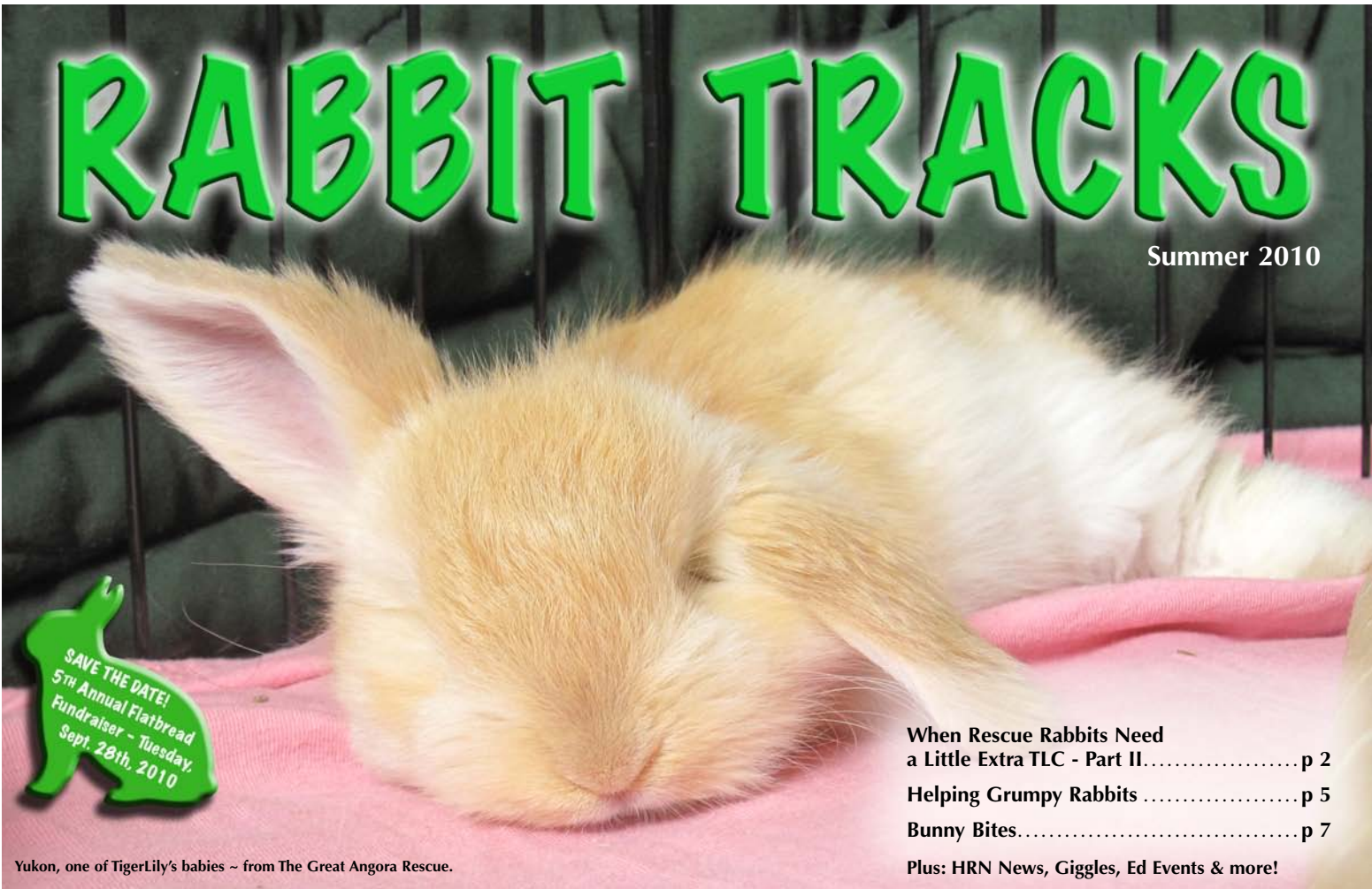
Woburn, MA 01888-1102



Dedicated to educating the public, to fostering and to the adoption of companion rabbits. 781-431-1211 or www.rabbitnetwork.org.

RABBIT TRACKS

Summer 2010



SAVE THE DATE!
5th Annual Flatbread
Fundraiser - Tuesday,
Sept. 28th, 2010

When Rescue Rabbits Need
a Little Extra TLC - Part II..... p 2

Helping Grumpy Rabbits p 5

Bunny Bites..... p 7

Plus: HRN News, Giggles, Ed Events & more!

Yukon, one of TigerLily's babies - from The Great Angora Rescue.

When Rescue Rabbits Need a Little Extra TLC - Part II

by Shannon Cail

"TLC fostering," as I call it, can take an emotional toll on your heart, especially when working with a very ill rabbit. But my life has also been enriched, in one way or another, by all of the rabbits who have passed through my home over the last few years. Whether it be fostering them until they got better and could be adopted out, or fostering them until "the end," they knew they'd be safe and have a home with me regardless.

SWEET PEA: She was one of a kind and unlike any rabbit I had ever cared for before. An amazing 1.5-pound ball of fur, and I had the pleasure of caring for her, fostering her and finally adopting her out.

She came into HRN care as a stray in the fall of 2007 in very bad shape. So bad, that one of our vets had to foster her while she underwent lots of intensive care for bad sore hocks, a tumor on her shoulder, and just getting her healthy enough to undergo spaying. During her spay, uterine cancer was found and the vet removed as much of the uterine stem as possible. We were hopeful the cancer was not going to return, but there were no guarantees. She also hopped a bit funny and we contributed that to her sore hocks, possible arthritis or even neurological damage from E. cuniculi. We were never certain of her exact age but could only guesstimate that she was on the "older" side.

Once healed, Sweet Pea came to me in December of 2007. She would charge at anything that moved toward her and bite! She would hold on with her teeth for dear life and not let go. I was constantly on guard with her and had to learn how to deal with her "aggressive ways." I had dealt with cage aggression before, but nothing like what Pea

showed me. This was a new challenge, yet I was ready and determined to turn this little T. rex into the name she was given...Sweet Pea.

She wasn't afraid of anything. She'd explore of her own free will, run and even try doing binkies at times. She didn't fear people either, despite the way she reacted at times toward me. I could only clean her cage when she was out of it. Otherwise, I risked being attacked. She was like a 100-pound, aggressively trained dog in a 1.5-pound bunny body. It was funny at times, but other times not so much. I could only imagine what her life was like before this for her to be this way.



SweetPea

During the months that followed, I worked with her and her aggression issues. We got to the point where I'd open her cage door in the morning, she'd come running over, bow her head and I'd give her a kiss. For an aggressive rabbit to bow her head is the ultimate form of submission and I recognized the progress we had made...until one morning. Pea apparently wasn't in the mood for kisses. Instead she attached herself to my bottom lip. In reaction, I pulled my head back, with her attached! Thankfully, as she released, I caught her mid-air, as the blood flowed from my lip. Let's just say we took a few steps

back in our progress that morning. Not sure why it happened or what triggered her to react the way she did, but we moved on and luckily I didn't need stitches.

Treats were big with Sweet Pea. She learned the sound of the banana chips shaking in the jar and would come running. She was still a bit aggressive with the way she grabbed the treat, but at least she knew something good was coming with a treat. I'd take that opportunity to pet her head and talk to her softly, assuring her she was okay. Eventually, she started seeking me out for pets. This was huge! She would come over even if I didn't have treats, put her head on my leg and want to be patted.

While Pea was in foster care, we had many calls and inquiries about her. Many wanted to adopt her because of her cute little size or because of her feisty attitude. But she was not a bun who could be adopted by just anyone. Because of her cage aggression, I knew she could only go to a home that would allow her to be in a pen, was very bunny experienced and knew how to deal with her possible aggression. Many potential adopters were turned down because I felt they didn't truly understand Pea's needs. And then a former HRN adopter came forward. Pea went to her forever home on June 1, 2008, and I knew it was the right decision. Her new mom, Jillian, was bunny experienced and thoroughly understood what Pea needed in life.

Unfortunately, Sweet Pea wasn't with Jillian for that long. She passed away November 8, 2008. However, during the time Jillian had her, Sweet Pea did indeed live up to her name. She showed Jillian just how sweet she could be and I think this was her way of telling

Jillian how thankful she was that she now had a forever home. Pea truly was a special bunny soul in every way.

CLOVER: She kind of came to me by accident. Her foster mom was away and Clover had gone into stasis as I was looking after the foster rabbits. I took her home to care for her and give her that one-on-one she would need to get well again. I decided that I couldn't let her go, so I would keep and foster her until she could be adopted. Clover never seemed to get truly well again, however.

She was a quiet, tiny, chinchilla-colored dwarf with big, dark eyes and beautiful lashes. Just a little pip-squeak of a thing. She had come to HRN as part of a seizure case in VT where the man who owned the rabbits quickly became overwhelmed with four-legged furies. Clover, along with some of the other rabbits, eventually ended up in HRN's care.

I don't think she ever knew what greens were, how the soft, gentle touch of a human could actually be a good thing or that there were people in this world who just wanted to love her. She enjoyed snuggling on a blanket or in a little pet bed I provided for her. She liked her surroundings to be quiet and calm and it was clear that with time and patience, and the right owner, she could turn the corner and become a wonderful bun.

Sadly, Clover never got that chance. About a week later, she started to go



Clover

downhill again. She was brought to the vet that Saturday because it was clear that something else was going on. Two hours after her vet appointment and radiographs, Clover quietly passed away. We're not sure if it had something to do with what was revealed in her radiographs or something else - her abdomen was very irregular and it could have been from inbreeding. Unfortunately, we'll never know.

Clover was given a proper burial at my house to show her that she WAS loved like my own personal rabbits. She may never have found a home, but she was loved and cared for, and she deserved her final moments to be peaceful ones.

BUGGY: HRN got a call from a local vet about a bunny who had been brought in by animal control with a broken rear leg. The surgery to repair her leg (which was literally broken in half and in another spot) had already been performed and she was in recovery with pins in her leg to stabilize and help it heal. She acquired the name Buggy on the car ride home with me due to her bulging ruby-colored eyes. I couldn't resist and it fit her...it really did!

From the moment she entered my home she was super-sweet and super-lovable.

She thoroughly enjoyed petting, greens and everything else good that came along with being a house bunny. She wasn't too keen on hay, but by the size of her plump body, she was no stranger to pellets. So we had to work on slimming her down a bit. Losing a bit of weight would also help her movement and use of the back leg, or her "flipper" as I referred to it, so there wasn't so much added pressure on it.

A few weeks passed and Buggy was doing well, but seemed to be a bit "depressed." Upon examination and radiographs, it was clear that the pin in her leg had actually moved and was



Buggy

causing her some pain - I could actually see the end of the pin sticking out of her leg, but not through the skin. Pain meds were in order and she was given a bit more time to heal to see what the next step would be. One break was healing, but the other break was not. Once on the pain meds, Buggy began feeling a lot better and moving around more as well.

Another few weeks and we were back at the vet to check Buggy's progress. This time, the break that was not healing properly last visit, had collapsed. We scheduled her for a possible leg amputation. Prepped for surgery, the vet saw and felt that Buggy's leg was actually stable. Radiographs revealed that the broken bone had actually calloused and was healing on its own. No surgery for Buggy! The vet decided to leave well enough alone and see how she did. That was fine by us and I'm sure with Buggy as well.

Four weeks later Buggy was back at the vet for her final surgery to have the pins removed from her leg and to be spayed. She recovered with no complications and in no time she was trying to run

“bunny 500s” and do binkies. Granted, her hop was a bit funny, but that didn't slow her down one bit. It was a long road to recovery for this little beauty, but she did it. It took two months of TLC, vet visits, surgeries and another two months of being spoiled rotten. On December 1, 2008, Buggy was adopted as a friend for another bunny. She currently resides in NY and has free run of her owner's home with her boyfriend bun. From rags to riches! The perfect ending for a little bunny found on the streets.

LEO & ALEX: I took this cute duo in because I was determined to get them adopted despite their lack of litter box habits and medical issues. I thought that just maybe, if they could be worked with one-on-one, things might improve and I could find the perfect adopter for them.

Leo and Alex were a tightly bonded, 3 to 4-year-old pair of male buns who had been in rescue for almost a year. They were constantly overlooked due to their medical issues and no one wanted to take on a pair of rabbits who might possibly need medical treatment for the rest of their lives. They were both extremely friendly. Leo was the outgoing, more opinionated and clown-like one and Alex the more reserved, preferring to snooze under the willow tent, always letting Leo lead the way. Both would come rushing to the open cage door, begging for pets and treats.

Leo had what the vet called a “non-infectious keratitis.” Basically, he had a problem with his cornea. It didn't hurt him and it clearly didn't affect him at all. He had some issues with molar spurs, tooth infections and malocclusion, so his incisors were removed. This just meant that he needed his veggies chopped up so it was easier for him to eat. Imagine having a bun who could never chew your wires or woodwork!

That was Leo! Alex had a small infection in his eye, but antibiotics cleared it up. Due to these issues, potential adopters continually passed them by. Until one day...a woman named Emily entered their lives. She was unfazed by their possible vet visits and “issues.” She only wanted to give them a wonderful, caring home, with an owner who would love them no matter what. I think it was Alex's dorkiness and Leo's lopitude that won her over.

I still get updates on the pair, who are now named Pedro and Rico. Their antics and super-cuteness keep their human laughing all the time. They are now enjoying the good life. Their box habits



Leo & Alex

have greatly improved, their health issues are just about non-existent and they even have another buddy, Charley (also adopted from HRN). Life couldn't have turned out better for these two!

BUTTERCUP: How can something enter and leave your life in what feels like the blink of an eye, yet leave such a huge impression on your heart? Buttercup did just that. She had been adopted out to a wonderful family, but within a few days, she was at our vet. Her new family didn't have a clue as to what was wrong. Buttercup's head and legs were limp and she could barely hold herself up, let alone move. Tests were run to determine just what was going on. One test in

particular for *E. cuniculi* wouldn't be back for 7-10 days, so in the meantime, our vet decided to start treating for the disease and Buttercup remained there to be monitored. A few days later I was asked to take Buttercup into my home to care for her.

It was heartbreaking to see such a sweet, gentle creature hardly able to move, eat or drink. I made her as comfortable as possible in a small dog bed, with her food, water and hay within reach, as well as a litter box, just in case. During the next two days she slowly started to improve. Her movements were getting better. She was able to hold her head up and was using her front paws to gain a bit of control and balance. She also began to eat a teeny bit on her own, but I still needed to give her subcutaneous fluids and syringe feed her. By the third night, I had huge hope for her when she hopped! Not a well-balanced, full-fledged hop, but a hop nonetheless. I supported her belly with a small towel to make it easier for her to get around. I thought she was finally turning the corner and whatever the heck this was that was affecting her might be subsiding and she was getting better.

By the end of the weekend, she had taken a turn for the worse. She was right back where she started when I picked her up from the vet the previous Wednesday. For the next five days, I literally begged and pleaded with Buttercup to fight. Tears streamed down my face as I stared into those big brown eyes. I was right there fighting with her and would do everything in my power to see that she got better. However, she was now refusing to eat. I would try to syringe feed her and it would just dribble from her little mouth. The meds were obviously not helping and the subcutaneous fluids were just keeping her hydrated, as she refused to drink as well. Treats didn't

even interest her. I could see at this point that it was like fighting a losing battle and she was only getting worse. As I sat in front of her, stroking her head and body gently, she would just look up at me, head not moving, with the saddest doe-like brown eyes I think I've ever seen. I knew in my heart, at that point, there was no fight left in this gentle soul. Her little body had given up and it wasn't fair for me to ask her to try, or to continue to make her stay alive.

That Friday morning, I wrapped her in a soft blanket, gently placed her in the carrier and took her to our vet. Buttercup was freed from all the pain that had consumed her body for the past week

and a half. As tears fell from my eyes, I bent down, kissed her gently and told her how sorry I was that we couldn't save her, despite all of our best efforts. Test results came back later that day and revealed a very high positive for *E. cuniculi*. In all my years of bunny ownership and my few years of fostering, I had never seen that disease devastate and take a precious little bunny life that fast. For some reason, in the short week and a half that I shared my home with this special little bun named Buttercup, I felt like I had shared a



Buttercup

lifetime with her. She touched my heart in ways I never thought possible and I'll never forget her.



Helping Grumpy Rabbits

by *Kathleen Bourdelais*

I've been working with aggressive or "grumpy" rabbits for about two years. I've found that I enjoy helping these rabbits overcome their "issues" and ultimately become an active member of an adoptive family. These are not "bad" bunnies, but victims of their personal histories. I volunteer at a local shelter and have been drawn to these cantankerous, curious and commendable creatures.

My first experience with grumpy rabbits began when I was about 12 years old. I had two very nice and laid-back albino rabbits, and my brother had a gray and white Dutch named Moondust. Moondust's "normal" behavior was to chase you around the yard, trying to either nip your ankles or mount your leg. Moondust was a very intelligent rabbit, illustrated by the fact that he would hop back into his cage when he was done exercising. As a child, I just accepted his "odd behavior" as part of his personality. He was not neutered,

which most likely accounts for his territorialism.

When I was younger, my love for animals was indulged with hamsters, guinea pigs, dogs and rabbits as companions. When I got older, married and became the mother of three children, life became hectic and I didn't have any of my bunny playmates for decades. Once I began working for a shelter, my fascination with rabbits was quickly rekindled.

At the shelter, I was soon introduced to rabbits who would make the "killer rabbit" from Monty Python look shy. I became curious as to why some rabbits came into the shelter very socialized and friendly while others were cage-aggressive, exhibiting this behavior by charging, biting, boxing and kicking with their rear legs. There were also the ones who hid in the corner and would attack if approached. After careful observation, it's my opinion that there are many reasons why rabbits can be grumpy: being unneutered; a history

of abuse, neglect, or lack of attention; little or no socialization or human contact; and boredom.

My first experience fostering a grumpy rabbit was Beatrix. She was a spayed two-year-old female. Spaying or neutering is an excellent place to start when dealing with a grumpy rabbit. These surgeries not only cut down on an animal's territorial behavior, but they're also good for the future health of the rabbit and preventing unwanted pregnancies. When I began fostering Beatrix, she would run around and around the cage so that you couldn't touch her. She feared human contact to the point that she would attack me if I tried to touch her. It was as if she believed that a human touch would cause her to shrivel up and die on the spot. Luckily, at the same time Beatrix came to live with me I was taking a course in Tellington TTouch and my instructor Edie Jane took an interest in Beatrix's behavior. Edie started to get her used to touch by using a feather

on a long stick. Once Beatrix was allowing this without protest, Edie began to slide her hands up on the stick, closer to Beatrix, to the point where she could pat Beatrix with her hands. Gradually, over weeks, she started to get used to being patted, picked up and held. I would try some of the TTouch techniques on her with positive results – she especially loved the ear slides.

I also started clicker-training her to come to the front of the cage so that I didn't have to go into the cage after her. She turned out to be a very intelligent rabbit and quickly learned commands such as "come", "up" and "spin." She began to enjoy one-on-one time with me, sitting in my lap and being patted. It appears that many of these so called grumpy rabbits are intelligent and bored, and quickly respond to clicker training as an outlet for their unspent energy. I've begun to investigate agility training for rabbits as a way to engage their brains.

I've known Reiki Healing Energy for years and I decided to try to adapt it for rabbits. Beatrix was my first rabbit Reiki patient. She responded well, which was evidenced by her coming to me for cuddling and allowing me to touch her gently while I was sending good energy to her. It took Beatrix about six months to learn to trust people and become a sweet rabbit. She was eventually transferred to HRN and was adopted by wonderful people for her forever home.

Following my positive experience with Beatrix, I took on the rather daunting task of fostering two more rabbits at the same time from the shelter, Rosie and Delilah. Each had different problems

but both had issues with cage aggression. Rosie was a beautiful black Lionhead and California mix who weighed about 10 lbs. She looked more like a Scottie dog than a rabbit. Her behavior issues diminished in foster care and she responded quickly to attention, Tellington TTouch and clicker training. About three weeks into having Rosie as a foster, she surprised me by kindling three bunnies. The fact that she was pregnant while at the shelter probably explains much of her cage aggression. She was so trusting by the time she had



Cute little Beatrix and Delilah.

the babies that she would even let me pick them up without any resistance on her part. After six more weeks, I am happy to report that she and the three bunnies found wonderful homes. In fact, Rosie was adopted out before two of her babies.

I worked with Delilah for a few weeks before Rosie's babies were born. Delilah was terrified of human touch and became wild-eyed whenever she was approached. She was not as actively aggressive as Rosie, but she also didn't seem to enjoy being touched by human hands. When I went to take her out of her cage, she would back up into a corner trembling and strike out at me with teeth and feet. I opted to get a top-opening cage for her until I gained

her trust. Delilah had also developed a habit of chewing anything and everything. On her intake report at the shelter, the people who surrendered her said that she chewed wires and furniture. She also loved digging. Although at first I thought Rosie would be my tougher challenge, I soon realized it would be Delilah. I was given the choice by the shelter to continue fostering her or transfer her to HRN. I gladly accepted the transfer for her sake.

A few months ago, I asked Suzanne if I could continue to foster Delilah through HRN – I felt like I owed her some more time and attention. I gave her phone books and towels to dig. She loves to chew, so I gave her plenty of apple branch sticks and cardboard. She responded well to clicker training for treats. I was able to clicker-train her to come to the door of a side-opening cage. This relieved much of her anxiety about hands going into the cage. I do some

Tellington TTouch on her every day and she has grown to enjoy these sessions. Delilah responds very well to Reiki Healing Energy. Almost every night for about an hour, I let her come out on my bed and we listen to Reiki music and I do some hands-on energy touching with her. She knows when I'm about to begin and she'll come hopping over to my side. She responds very well to one-on-one time. I decided to introduce Delilah to my five-year-old granddaughters. At first, she looked like she was going to have a panic attack, but she soon settled right down. The girls were taught to move slowly and quietly and be very gentle with her. She now allows not only my granddaughters to hold and pat her but also my three-year-old grandson. She has improved 110%

but she still has days when she grunts (I guess we all do).

In conclusion, there can be many reasons for why some rabbits are grumpy. They may have been abused or neglected; maybe they are bored and

need a way to stimulate their intelligence; or perhaps they're hormonal because they are unneutered or haven't been spayed. I believe genetics can also be a factor. When dealing with a surrendered rabbit, their history can be

sketchy at best because no one wants to admit to failure. The most important thing to know is that these grumpy rabbits need someone who has the patience, love and time to help them be the best they can be.



Bunny Bites

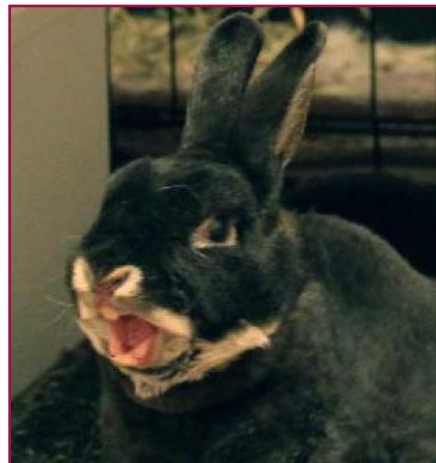
by Suzanne Trayhan

One of the most common questions is whether or not rabbits bite. The honest answer is that all animals can bite under certain circumstances. Most people would call having teeth come into contact with the skin a bite, but this is not always a sign of aggression. Understanding your rabbit's behavior and what they're doing will enable you to have a better relationship with your bunny.

Rabbits have both a bite and a nip. With a bite, you have teeth open wide and it can leave two marks that are about an inch apart. It will often break the skin and can draw blood. With a nip, it is really more of a pinch. It won't break the skin, but in a few cases can leave a tiny bruise that is smaller than an eraser. Rabbits will nip each other as a form of communication. Keep in mind that when rabbits nip each other, they are nipping through fur, so it really doesn't hurt them. When they nip us humans, we don't have fur, so it can feel like a pinch. When a rabbit nips, it can be a bit bossy – move out of the way, I want this spot! One of my first rabbits used to nip my hand when she wanted me to pet her. I had to retrain her to nudge my hand with her nose instead. Some rabbits will nip when you hold them. It's their way of telling you they want to be put down. When they nip you, let out a loud "Ouch!" so they

learn they're hurting you. When a rabbit nips, they're communicating something. It is up to you to figure out what that is.

With bites, you need to analyze the behavior to understand what the intent was. One example is when rabbits



Yikes! Is this a bite or a nip?

mate/mount. When a rabbit mounts another rabbit to mate, they bite the loose fur on the back of the neck to hold on. The skin on the back of a rabbit's neck is loose, with few nerve endings. When a rabbit bites to hold on, they are not hurting the other rabbit. It is simply a hold. When you have unneutered males, they will sometimes try to mount your arm or leg. While they're doing this, they'll bite – but this is not an aggressive bite. They're biting to hold on while they

mate. When you have bonding sessions between two rabbits, both males and females will mount each other, and not always in the right direction. When they mount, they will bite to hold on. Don't take this as aggressive, although the rabbit being mounted does sometimes get annoyed.

Another thing to understand is rabbits' eyes and their vision. They are prey animals and for that reason their eyes are on the sides of their heads, giving them a wider range of vision than we have. One consequence of this is that they have a small blind spot right in front of their face. It means that they can't see what they're eating, so they rely on their sense of smell. If you place food on the ground, you will see them sniff around to find it before they eat it. If you happen to eat banana, raisins or another fragrant rabbit treat and then place your fingers in front of your bunny, don't be surprised if they bite your finger. Because they can't see your finger, if it smells like banana, they'll assume it is.

We all know people who are touchy-feely. They like to touch and feel everything around them. There are some rabbits who are this way too. The only difference is that rabbits feel things with their mouths. Touchy-feely rabbits tend to mouth everything. They gently bite down on something to get a sense of what it is. This isn't hard or forceful,

and isn't meant to be aggressive. They will "taste" your shoes, tug on your pants and mouth many things in your house. They give a gentle little bite to most things they come into contact with.

Next, we have the nervous nibble. When a rabbit is nervous, they can nibble. This is most common when a rabbit is being held. They're scared and will start to nibble on your clothing. They're not trying to be mean – their behavior is fear-driven. Discipline will not help. You need to wear thick clothes and slowly work with your rabbit so they become used to being held. This behavior is strictly out of fear and not meant to be mean or hurtful.

Last, we need to discuss aggressive bites. Rabbits will bite when they're fighting with another rabbit, scared, or being protective or possessive. The most common time that rabbits bite is when they are food-, litter box- or cage-protective. Some are very possessive and

don't want their cage, box or food touched. Get them away from their trigger and many of them love attention and can be very sweet. This aggressive behavior is fairly easy for adults to deal with and often diminishes with patience and time. If the rabbit is cage-protective, clean the cage when they're out playing. If food is the trigger, you can usually pet them on the head and while your hand is on top of their head, place food in their cage with the other hand.

Rabbit introductions and bonding are other times when you might have bites. Whether you are deliberately introducing rabbits or there is an accidental meeting, sometimes rabbits will fight with each other. When this happens, they bite viciously. It is important to break them apart as fast as possible, but when you do so, you risk getting hurt yourself. In fight mode, they bite first and ask questions later, so if you place your hand in the wrong spot, you will get

bitten. This is nothing personal and shouldn't be taken as an act of aggression against you. When bonding, people often wear heavy gloves, place old sneakers on their hands or keep a broom handy to help separate fighting buns. In a similar context, if you handle a foreign rabbit, there is a chance your rabbit might attack you. They're not attacking you, the person, but rather they're attacking the scent of the other rabbit, which happens to be on your clothes.

Understanding your rabbit's behavior is necessary for having a happy, healthy relationship with them. If you ever experience a bite or a nip, examine the reasons why. It will help you figure out why it happened and hopefully be better prepared in the future. There are many ways to deal with bites and nips that can lead to a better relationship with your bunny.



HRN News

Giggles!

The 2nd Annual Giggles Comedy Fundraiser was a huge success this year. We raised \$1628 and couldn't have done it without all of our supporters. Thank you.

The Great Angora Rescue

On May 4th the New Brunswick SPCA in Canada, seized 168 angora rabbits from a home in the area. Through a lot of hard work and dedication by many volunteers and rabbit rescues, two transports were organized. The transport on May 15th brought 19 adults and one mother with her six babies to our area. The transport on June 5th

brought 37 adults and 19 babies down to the area. The majority of the 31 females on the second transport were pregnant. All of the angoras were distributed throughout rescues in MA, CT, RI, VT, NY, NJ, PA and DE. If you would like to help donate to any of the rescues with veterinary bills and the spays and neuters for all of these rabbits, please contact us at info@rabbitnetwork.org. Look for The Great Angora Rescue article in the Fall 2010 Rabbit Tracks Newsletter. For now, the HRN angoras can be followed on our blog at blog.rabbitnetwork.org.

Upcoming Ed Days

We hold education events at various locations in Eastern Massachusetts. All dates and locations are on our web site at www.rabbitnetwork.org. Please stop

by to visit, and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have about rabbits and their care. Information about adoption, along with a listing of rabbits currently up for adoption, will also be available. We do not adopt out on-site.

The following education days are all at various Massachusetts Especially for Pets locations from 12 PM to 3 PM:

- July 31, Animal Spirit, 2348 Mass. Ave, Cambridge, 12-3 PM
- Sept 12, Pet Rock, Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester, 12-5 PM
- Sept 19, PCS Petwalk, Norfolk County Agricultural HS, Walpole, 10 AM-3 PM
- Oct 3, Steps For Pets, Lowell Humane Society, Lowell, 11 AM-3 PM

Memorials

Every time I lose a rabbit he takes a piece of my heart with him. And every new rabbit who comes into my life, gifts me with a piece of his heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be rabbit, and I will become as generous and loving as they are.

~Author Unknown

Twitch

This is a memorial dedicated to my beloved rabbit Twitch. I'd like to start off by saying she was very unique and special to me. I would always wake up in the morning to find her on her hind legs and ready to be fed her breakfast, Tid Bits. She would shove her face in the bag so she could get them before I was able to get them into her bowl. When I got home I would sit on the rug with her and she would like to jump and climb all over me. She got her name because of the odd jumps she would do. Her ears would twitch and she would hop sideways. Everyone thought it was funny that she always had one ear up and one ear down. She jumped on top of anything she could, it use to amaze me how high she could go. All night I would be up hearing her bowl slam against the ground because she claimed to be hungry. She was very shy and only really liked me and my dad. She hated to be held and did not want to be contained. On nice days she would roam around in her extended cage chasing bugs and sun bathing. Her favorite treat was banana which she would move through obstacles to get. She loved to be pet between her eyes and would roll in circles when I tried



to brush her. She was feisty but gentle, even with her demon claws she never scratched me. I would come home and talk to her and she would lie down, kick her feet out, look up at me with her big brown eyes and listen. I have so many wonderful memories of her. She was loved by many and she was my very first rabbit. I miss her and always will. RIP Twitch.

~by Samantha

Liam



Battlestar Liam Skulls Q. Bunny, you waited two years for your forever home. When you came home with us, you were at fist terrified of every sound. After a month, you began to trust us and you became comfortable enough to take raisins from our hands. Soon you were dancing around our feet every morning as we went through your pen to leave the house.

Your love for pets was limitless; you would drop anything you were doing, including eating, for a few strokes on the nose. I have never seen a bun that was so excited for a little love. You used to shove your nose under our hands when we sat in your pen with you. And you loved to groom us right back.

You gave us a couple scares, including a hunger strike the week after we moved into a new place, but, with a little care, you always bounced back. Your problem with a perpetual runny nose passed over into your brain, and suddenly one morning and you slipped away without much suffering. We miss your unreserved love and excitement. Wherever you are, I

hope somebody is grooming you and feeding you as many grapes as you like. We miss you Liam, our little Battlestar.

~Tom and Jillian

Flip

August 28, 1998 – January 8, 2010

Flip was reunited with his late sister and lifelong companion Molly on January 8, 2010. Flip came into foster care with his mom and siblings when he was just hours old. He was named for his impressive displays of high flying acrobatics. He was also blazing fast in the Bunny 500, which he regularly ran throughout his senior years after retiring from the gymnastics circuit. Flip was small and short in stature but big in heart and even bigger in stomach, and was well known for his love of food. Molly and he collaborated on many infamous treat heists such as the Pre-dawn Frosting Filching of 2001 and the Giant Gingerbread Cookie Caper. It is speculated that he was also an accomplished pick-pocket, but as he left no eyewitnesses, we may never truly know who was responsible for the many snacks gone missing out of



pockets and purses over the years. He regularly raided vulnerable boxes of crackers and cookies. Flip made many furfriends on BunSpace and enjoyed participating in Bunny Secret Santa. He was an excellent snuggler, nose bonker, fearless defender of territory, devourer of hay, and a loyal and loving brother and friend. He is cherished and deeply missed.

~Linda

Join HRN...or...Please Renew Your Membership

House Rabbit Network is now in its 10th year – and we continue to grow. Through our network of dedicated volunteers and members, we are making amazing strides to improve the welfare of house rabbits everywhere. Your support can only further our goals, so become a member and get involved.

Visit our web site to find out how to help: www.rabbitnetwork.org.

If you are not already a member, please join HRN!

Your membership dollars will go toward rescue and rehabilitation, community outreach and education, and veterinary expenses.

Help make a difference in a rabbit's life. They're counting on you!

Contact House Rabbit Network at info@rabbitnetwork.org or (781) 431-1211.



House Rabbit Network Membership and Ordering Form

Your membership donation is tax-deductible and will be used for medical costs (spays/neuters, vet bills) and education expenses. All members will receive a copy of our newsletter, *Rabbit Tracks*, when it is published. Currently, we are publishing three issues per year.

Memberships run from April 1 to March 31 (donations received January–March will be credited for the following year). To join, fill out this page and mail it with your check (payable to **House Rabbit Network**) to:

**House Rabbit Network
P.O. Box 2602
Woburn, MA 01888-1102**

Choose your membership level:

- Dwarf \$ 15.00
- Mini Lop \$ 25.00
- New Zealand \$ 50.00
- Flemish Giant \$ 100.00
- Mix (other) \$ _____

Choose your newsletter delivery preference:

- PDF format via email (significant savings for HRN)
- Hard copy via U.S. Mail

Please send me _____ copies of *Rabbit Health in the 21st Century* 2nd Edition

at \$20.00 each: \$ _____
 Membership: \$ _____
 Other Contribution: \$ _____

Name _____
 Street _____ Apt. _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Total: \$ _____